

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Living Coastal and Marine Resources Listening Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
General Public	Concerned about "we don't have any money." Oil and gas gives royalties-nearly \$900M/year. We do have existing mechanisms that aren't being used to their capacity. Suggest that the governors should recommend using these funds. Only takes care of land acquisition, but in Texas, a lot of the projects are land acquisition.
General Public	CIAP process - not using this funding source to its capacity - this fund should be better used, we should be using the funding sources we already have better to implement this restoration work. Response - Yes, this is a good suggestion and it should be looked into.
Academia	Since you are looking at abundance and diversity of the ecosystem, what sentinel species are you looking at? How can you tie the genomic work of the university into sentinel species work? We looked at micro-organism like bacteria and eucayotes. Answer - looking at sentinel species is a good idea and we are looking at it.
Academia	Have taken 16 samples from Grand Isle and Gulfport.
NGO	Can the fisheries profile get raised in the document? Is it possible to raise the profile of fisheries within the goal? Using the most efficient sustainable gear to give fishermen an edge in the market? The fisheries should be globally competitive, such as restoring depleted fish populations, investing in gear improvements, giving the fisheries an edge in the marketplace. Given the value of fisheries in the region, should get more than a passing reference in the goal in the document. Answer - Yes it can, especially via marketing for seafood. In the forthcoming framework for the GOM - the document discusses how to develop a sustainable fisheries.
NGO	Marine mammals needs to be used as a bio-monitor - bottlenose dolphin for example; can be used to detect toxins; with a little bit of extra funding there is such a huge TX coast line with a great deal of comparative data (need funding to run tests) - necropsies and funding to pay for toxicity testing. Answer - the EO wants the TF to use existing networks and leverage existing work.

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Academia	Example look at the San Diego zoo work - If you have an animal with sores - DNA sequencing can help with this to get a finger print. One of things we've done is examine sea lion deaths at San Diego zoo. Examined foreign DNA. DNA sequencing to determine what pathogens are in there.
General Public	You've got existing programs that aren't functioning well because they don't have the funding. Existing program like the FGBNMS do not have the funds to finish their boundary change work. This needs to be integrated with the TF work. That also aligns with the NOP work. Leveraging of resources is key here. Answer - Yes, we are with not only leveraging what we are collecting but how we are collecting the data and information. Depending on what the TF decides to do with existing, need to integrate. Need to look at efficiencies and alignments.
NGO	Utilize the NEPs that have collaborative processes in the TF work; Oysters and Galveston Bay - There is a declining trend in oyster to an alternative stable state with settlement areas. Need more settlement areas and need to look at sea level rise and climate change in understanding this change. Answer - yes we have heard a lot about oysters and NEP work as well. Sea Grant, MPAs, NERRS, and National Parks, - all this must be connected and leveraged. These programs must be put together. We need to create an environmental literacy with these areas and the public's role in the ecosystem. Take advantage of the programs we have. We need the folks that are trained in education part of this work
Academia	One program that University of Houston has with Yale-bring in teachers from elementary through secondary education. Houston Teacher's Institute - in cooperation with Yale - develop their own teaching curriculum unit. Efficient way of getting information out to the classroom. Invigorates the teachers-they can create their own, it's not forced on them.
Academia	Flower Garden Banks - What are the strategies to capture all this information and all these programs? One suggestion is to further expand this work. How do we link the different programs that exist and who makes those decisions to work better with the sanctuary. How to protect special places in the Gulf of Mexico? How to address deepwater habitat? A first step is to figure out what is out there? For the FGB, how can that work be linked to the Fishery Management Councils?

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NGO	Marine debris and marine mammal entanglement and stranding - looking into that and how to educate folks about this. Can use this a tool to connect the marine mammal issue to marine debris. If we want to include this in the strategy, can look to marine mammal network to help expand. Entanglement-nets, buoys, buoy lines, monofilament. Directly related to the coastal community-that's how the marine debris gets in there. We do have some evidence of this occurring. Would be good to get students out there to see how monofilament line can impact marine mammals, could start cleanup efforts. Trying to get things going. Entanglement issues with marine mammals - since 2009 at least 5 live marine mammal entanglements have happened. Want to get students out to see how monofilament line can affect marine mammals. Need funding for this.
NGO	BP disaster taught us how little we know about the Gulf ecosystem. We need an infusion of dollars in restoration science. A lot of the programs that are being discussed could be funded under an endowment under long-term fisheries research, long-term monitoring. After Exxon Valdez, had significant investment in monitoring and Alaska has since benefited, using the information to better understand fisheries and other elements. Encourage the TF to consider leaving lasting legacy of endowed program of monitoring and research. This type of program transcends all of the goals-would also support implementation and adaptive management.
General Public	Two things I heard today-there aren't any buffers for ecosystems to move landward as sea level rises. This seems an important question. Seems obvious that one of the problems is that the local government (cities and counties)-there's nothing that triggers the city/county to look at wetlands impacts or ask for Corps permits, etc. Not sure what the problem is with that. For Texas, there is no state agency that can examine that. No section 404 state law. There are holes in land planning. The cities and counties - when you in for a building permit - what about wetlands and a Corps permit? At the local level, you need them to step in and say that natural system is important. The question about local buy-in is key. There is no state agency pursuing this (permits that include a natural resource effects analysis).
NGO	Time frame - What is the time frame to develop a first draft of the strategy? Answer - We know the end date of October.
Academia	Will it be hypothesis or outcome driven? You have to have it have an underlying science basis.
General Public	One program that could be improved is section 404 in the Clean Water Act. I talk to a lot of agencies, NGOs, etc. Nobody is happy with how the program is being run-lots of inconsistencies. With wetlands, not enough mitigation or improper placement. Section 404 could have some national consistency.